

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1730V

UNPUBLISHED

STEVEN ROTHENBERG,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 21, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Ronald Craig Homer, Conway, Homer, P.C., Boston, MA, for Petitioner.*

*Benjamin Patrick Warder, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for  
Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On December 2, 2020, Steven Rothenberg filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) caused by an influenza vaccine administered on October 7, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On December 16, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for a SIRVA. On February 16, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$60,681.62 (comprised of \$60,000.00 for pain and suffering, \$625.00 for past out-of-pocket expenses,

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

and \$56.62 for past mileage). Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$60,681.62 (comprised of \$60,000.00 for pain and suffering, \$625.00 for past out-of-pocket expenses, and \$56.62 for past mileage) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

STEVEN ROTHENBERG,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 20-1730V (ECF)
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On December 2, 2020, Steven Rothenberg (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (ECF No. 1) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act”), alleging that he suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza vaccine that he received on October 7, 2019. ECF No. 1 at 1. On December 28, 2021, petitioner filed an amended petition for compensation (ECF No. 31). The amended petition provided an expanded set of facts based on petitioner’s medical records, but it did not contain any changes to the legal allegations made in this case. ECF No. 31 at 1. On December 16, 2022, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) report (ECF No. 39) indicating that this case was appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Vaccine Act for a SIRVA Table injury. Also on December 16, 2022, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement (ECF No. 40) finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation.

**I. Items of Compensation**

**A. Pain and Suffering**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$60,000.00 in pain and suffering.

*See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

**B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses**

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses pertaining to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the total amount of \$681.62 (\$625.00 for past out-of-pocket expenses and \$56.62 for past mileage). *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:<sup>1</sup> a lump sum payment of \$60,681.62, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payment Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Steven Rothenberg: **\$60,681.62**

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Benjamin P. Warder  
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Date: February 16, 2023